



*Issue #4*

## ***Canoehead*** *paddling advice from Souris River Canoes*



*July 2010*

### ***The Prospector 17.5 is back!***

Souris River Canoes is proud to bring its Prospector 17.5 back into production. Our new mould arrived this week, and we are now prepping it for production, which is expected to start next week.



*Wayne Docking preps our new Prospector 17.5 mould for production.*

Our tireless editor dusted off an old SRC brochure, and found this description:

“The 16 foot Prospector is recommended as the ‘perfect canoe’ by Bill Mason in his book *Path of the Paddle*. We wanted to increase the carrying capacity so we lengthened it to 17.5 feet. Our 17.5 Prospector is slightly less maneuverable than the 16 foot Prospector {but more maneuverable than our Quetico 17 or Wilderness 18 – ed.}, but we feel that the extra carrying capacity, straighter tracking and higher speed are well worth it.

“The Prospector 17.5 has a high carrying capacity and in the hands of experienced paddlers, it is able to withstand rough water much better than straight-keeled lower sided canoes. These characteristics make this design an excellent choice for rugged wilderness tripping.”

We believe our flagship canoe, the Quetico 17, is still your best choice for an all-round tripping canoe. It combines a popular blend of stability, speed and capacity to suit the needs of most wilderness paddlers.

However, if you are a more experienced paddler and want to kick it up a notch, the Prospector 17.5 and the Wilderness 18 are both worth a second look. The Prospector will give you better handling on rough water, and increased maneuverability. The tradeoff is that this canoe won't have the stability of the Quetico 17, and won't track quite as well. On the other hand, the Wilderness 18 – the choice of Quetico Park interior staff – will track straight, paddle fast, and take any load you can give her.

The specification chart below shows you how the Prospector 17.5 compares with our other tandem tripping canoes, and with the Prospector 16.

	<b>Prospector 17.5</b>	<b>Prospector 16</b>	<b>Quetico 17</b>	<b>Wilderness 18</b>
Length	17' 6"	16'	17' 3"	18'
Weight (Kevlar)	44 lbs (est)	41 lbs	44 lbs	45 lbs
Gunwale width	34"	34"	35"	34"
Depth				
Bow	22"	20"	20"	20"
Centre	15"	14"	13.5"	14.5"
Stern	22"	20"	20"	18"
Tracking	■■■	■■■	■■■■■■	■■■■■■■■
Manoeuvring	■■■■■■■	■■■■■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■
Capacity	■■■■■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■■■	■■■■■■■■■
Rough water	■■■■■■■■■	■■■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■■■
Stability	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■■■■■	■■■■■

Pricing has not yet been determined, but expect it to be comparable to our Quetico 17. Production of this great, traditional canoe design will start any day. To order yours, look for the contact information at the end of this newsletter.

### **Scratch Repair**

We get many questions on repairing small and large cracks in Souris River Canoes. Because all our canoes have a layer of fiberglass on the outside, scratch repair is simple and effective. For a thorough explanation, visit our website, [www.sourisriver.com](http://www.sourisriver.com) and look in the *Technical* menu.

## ***Voyage to the Bay***



Particularly during the summer months, the Souris River Canoe factory receives frequent visitors. Often people who've just paddled one of our canoes through Quetico Provincial Park want to see where and how they're made. Once in a while, an extra special guest visits. In this case it was a canoe (and its owners) we'd built that completed a 2900 kilometre (1800 mile) paddle from Western Alberta to Hudson Bay.

In 2006, eight hardy souls set-out from Western Alberta to paddle to Hudson Bay. Souris River Canoes proudly sponsored the team, who paddled our canoes on the adventure. They were in the area this month, and paid us a visit to get a little maintenance on one of their Wilderness 18 canoes.

The maintenance, after nearly 3000 kilometres of paddling some of the most remote wilderness in Canada? End caps. It seems they'd worn a little thin on the portages.

To learn more about their adventure, including trip logs, visit their website, [voyagetothebay.cauc.ca](http://voyagetothebay.cauc.ca)

## ***Keep in touch!***

Have a paddling story that might suit our newsletter or our website? Let us know. We'd love to share your paddling photos as well. E-mail your material or queries to [admin@sourisriver.com](mailto:admin@sourisriver.com)

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